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BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Die Spanier in Nordamerika von 1513-1824. Von ERNST DAENELL.
[Historische Bibliothek herausgegeben von der Redaktion der
Historischen Zeitschrift. Band 22.] (Munich and Berlin: R.
Oldenbourg. 1911. Pp. xv, 247.)

THE title of this book is misleading, for except incidentally nothing is said concerning what is now Mexico, manifestly the most important if not the largest portion of Spain's dominions in North America. The book is rather a sketch of Spanish activities within the present United States, and is the first of this class to appear. Such being the important position occupied by the work, a statement of its scope and organization is indispensable. It contains twelve chapters, dealing with: (1) Spanish North America before the conquest of Mexico, Ponce de León, Pineda, Narvaez, and Cabeza de Vaca; (2) the great explorations—Cortés, Fray Marcos, Coronado, de Soto, Cabrillo; (3) the occupation of Florida and New Mexico; (4) Spanish colonial methods; (5) New Mexico to 1680; (6) Peñalosa and La Salle; (7) expansion in the later seventeenth century—Texas, New Mexico, Florida, Lower California, Pimería Alta; (8) the first half of the eighteenth century—Florida, New Mexico, Texas, the contest for the great plains; (9) changes and progress till the American Revolution—the Louisiana cession, Russia on the Pacific, Rubí, Alta California; (10) the end of Spanish rule—Spain and the American West, the sale of Louisiana to the United States, pressure by Americans on the Spanish frontier, the revolution in New Spain, results and significance of the Spanish régime. The book is broadly conceived, as the foregoing shows, and on this score deserves commendation.

While some attention is given to the internal development of the different provinces and two chapters are devoted to colonial administration and commercial policy, the central theme of the book is political—the external struggle with France, Russia, England, and the United States for dominion. In general the treatment of this phase is good, and especially so is the account of the frontier contest in the eighteenth century for the control of the great plains east of New Mexico. But there are some shortcomings even on this score. No mention is made, for example, of the contest for the control of the Lower Trinity River, of the very significant expansion movement on the northeastern frontier of New Spain on the eve of the Louisiana cession of 1762, of the connection between that cession and the occupation of Alta California; or of the reoccupation of eastern Texas after 1772, an event of great significance for subsequent developments.

Chapter iv. is a good summary of Spanish colonial methods in the sixteenth century as set forth in the ordinances, but there is no hint that, except in the beginnings of New Mexico and Florida, in the sixteenth century, these rules had little practical application in the frontier provinces which form the theme of the book. The whole matter of

encomiendas, for example, is beside the point when treating of Spanish Texas or Spanish Alta California. In other words, a correct knowledge of actual administration in the frontier provinces in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries cannot be gained from general ordinances of the sixteenth century. The investigation must go deeper. A discussion of the administration of the northern provinces which makes no mention of the *Provincias Internas* or of the Marine Department of San Blas is manifestly inadequate.

The author has made extensive use of several of the larger collections of sources, but we miss with surprise citations of the *Documentos para la Historia de México* (Mexico, 1853-1857), the "*Memorias para la Historia de Nueva España*", or the more special collections such as Garcia's *Dos Antiguas Relaciones de la Florida*, and Portillo's *Apuntes para la Historia Antigua de Coahuila y Texas*. Independence is praiseworthy, but the desire to be independent does not justify ignoring the work of specialists in the field. A wider use of monographs and a less confident reliance upon French sources, principally those contained in Margry, would have saved the author many errors of detail.

The weakness of the book on this score can be illustrated by the treatment of the single province of Texas, in which we miss references to the works of de León, Espinosa, Arricivita, Yoakum, Portillo, and Garrison, and numerous indispensable papers published in the *Texas Quarterly*. The author implies that de León's expedition of 1689 was the first instead of the fourth by land in search of the French (p. 124); de León did not have four or five hundred men, but eighty or one hundred, on that expedition (p. 124); the second mission on the Neches was not founded by the Terán expedition, but in 1690 (p. 125); there is little ground for the statement that the Asinais Indians hated the Spaniards in 1719 (p. 146)—as a matter of fact they begged the missionaries to remain with them; Los Adaes (not Adai) was seven leagues, not seven miles, from the Red River (p. 147); it was established for the first time, not re-established, in 1721 (p. 147); San Antonio was not founded in 1692, but in 1718 (p. 148); Espíritu Santo Bay was occupied from San Antonio, not Los Adaes, as a base (p. 147); the statement on page 148 concerning the number of presidios in Texas is not clear, but if we understand its meaning it is incorrect; it is very erroneous to state that Texas took no active part in the Mexican War of Independence (p. 244).

In short, the book is a very useful and meritorious general sketch, but is marred by numerous shortcomings of detail and insight which would have been corrected by a more specialized knowledge of the field.

HERBERT E. BOLTON.

The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware: their History and Relation to the Indians, Dutch and English, 1638-1664. With an Account of the South, the New Sweden, and the American